

[20th October 1927]

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO:—"What arrangements has the Minister made for that consideration, may I know, Sir, whether he has appointed a committee or whether he is carrying on considerations in any other manner?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"I think, Sir, I said at the previous meeting of the Council that the Government were intending to depute the Principal of School of Indian Medicine to report to the Government about the action taken in other provinces in India and if this inspection is made and the report is received, the Government will then be in a position to consider the matter."

Alleged prohibition of parents from staying in the General Hospital during nights.

* 755 Q.—Mr. C. VENKATARAMAN NAYUDU: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state whether it is a fact that guardians or mothers of children even under three years of age admitted as in-patients into the General Hospital, Madras, are not allowed to stay with the children during nights and if so why?

A.—Mothers of breastfed infants are always admitted into the hospital. In other cases the mothers are only admitted when the children are placed on the 'seriously ill' list by the Medical Officer in charge.

Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO:—"May I know up to what age limit of children mothers are allowed?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"The answer gives the information, Sir."

Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO:—"Sir, there may be children of five or six years of age. Even such children are not to be with their mothers unless they happen to be seriously ill. Does it mean that?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"I think the answer is there, Sir."

Public Health

Construction of leper asylums in the Presidency.

* 756 Q.—Mr. BASHEER AHMAD SAYEED: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware of the increasing number of lepers in the city of Madras and elsewhere;

(b) whether the Government have taken any steps for the prevention of a free intermingling of the lepers with healthy citizens and for their isolation, and if not, why not;

(c) whether the Government propose to extend the application of the Leper Act of 1898 to this Presidency and construct suitable asylums for the isolation of lepers and provide for their maintenance; and

(d) whether the Government propose to set apart a sufficient sum of money for the purpose of constructing leper asylums in the necessary localities from out of the Provincial remissions?